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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A solid-state image pickup apparatus with a shortened signal reading out time in performing, for example, a light measurement control even in an application photosensitive cells are highly integrated, and a method of reading out a signal. With a digital still camera, in a mode set by a mode setting section, a system control section controls a drive signal generator to generate a drive signal. from an objective imaging field is incident onto an image pickup device through a color separation filter having color filters at least one of three separated colors arranged in a column direction. The image pickup device photoelectrically converts the incident light by each of photosensitive cells incorporated therein, receives the drive signal on a signal reading out gate, and performs a transfer of signal charge. reading out only for the one of separated colors is in turn performed taking account of the arrangement of the color filter segments of color separation filter.